



# City Update

News and Information for City of Saint Paul Employees

September 10, 1999

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### Mayor

Norm Coleman

### Council Members

Jerry Blakey

Christopher Coleman

Michael Harris

Jay Benanav

Jim Reiter

Dan Bostrom

Kathy Lantry

## City Prepares for Interruption in Phone Service Overload, Not Y2K, Could Shut Down Phone Lines

Picture this: It's 12:15 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2000 and you pick up the phone to make a call. There is no dial tone. This may not be a big deal if you were only calling to wish a friend a Happy New Year but what if there was a medical emergency and you could not reach 9-1-1.

Don't think it's possible? Think again.

US West has told the Saint Paul Y2K Team that interruptions in telephone service are likely on and around Dec. 31, 1999 - Jan. 1, 2000. This interruption will not be due to Y2K but to overload of the telephone system.

Interruptions in telephone service due to system overload are not new. US West sees an increase in the number of calls it handles on Mother's Day and some phone service shut down when tickets went on sale for the seventh game of the 1991 World Series featuring the Minnesota Twins. According to US West, this New Year's Eve could be the "Mother of all Mother's Days."

"If phone service is interrupted, vital telephone calls like 9-1-1 may not go through," said Tim Butler, Manager of Saint Paul's Emergency Communications Center.

As part of its goal to prepare for any potential disruption in service, the Saint Paul Y2K Team and its community partners are building a network of neighborhood-based facilities to back up the telephone system.

"This network will use radios to connect what we are calling Emergency Communication Sites in each neighborhood to the Police/Fire/EMS Dispatch Center," Tim said

The Emergency Communications Sites will vary by neighborhood. At this time, the Y2K team plans to use police substations, fire stations, some Parks and Recreation facilities, and city vehicles located at some SuperAmerica stores and other neighborhood locations in Saint Paul. Some city employees and volunteers from the community will staff these facilities/vehicles during an eight-hour period when phone use is expected to be at its highest. Each site will be identified to the public by signs, antenna flags or other easily identified markings/lights.

See Y2K Phone Service - Page 2



## Need More Information on Y2K?

Visit  
[www.stpaul.gov/y2k](http://www.stpaul.gov/y2k)

In the months ahead, this site will be revised to provide additional preparation tips and a detailed description of the City's back-up phone plan, including a map of all Emergency Communication Sites.

## HealthPartners offers gun lock discounts to members

If you own a rifle, shotgun or handgun, a gun lock may help prevent an accident or theft. HealthPartners offers members a special price on the Master Gun Lock -- only \$7.95, a savings of \$2.00 off the regular retail price.

The Master Gun Lock has a two-piece key-locking design that attaches easily to the trigger guard of most shotguns, rifles and handguns so that the trigger cannot be used. It discourages tampering by children and helps prevent theft. Cushioned pads protect the gun's finish.

Call the HealthPartners Partners for Better Health Phone Line at (612) 883-7800 from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for more information or to order this home safety item.

## Gus Macker Tournament: Street Basketball At Its Best



The 11th annual Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament recently took place in downtown Saint Paul. Net proceeds from the tournament were donated to Night Moves, a late-night education, sports and recreation program aimed at keeping high risk teens and young adults in the gym and off the streets.

## Employees Rally Against Compete Saint Paul



Nearly 200 city employees attended a rally to show their opposition to Compete Saint Paul, an initiative to privatize some city services.

## Y2K Phone Service *(continued)*

"The primary goal of this plan is to protect life and property," said Lisa Nasseff, Saint Paul's Y2K Project Manager. "Saint Paul is the only city going to this effort to prepare for this potential disruption in service. We, as a city, have a duty to provide 9-1-1 service and have designed a plan to provide that service, regardless of any unforeseen circumstances."

Saint Paul businesses and residents can help alleviate this problem by not using the telephone, including cellular phones, from 11 p.m. Dec. 31, 1999 through Jan. 1, 2000 unless it is an emergency. Also, residents should limit the use of the Internet during that time period.

The City of Saint Paul will unveil its final plan at its 100-day update on Monday, September 27.

The City plans to distribute this information to Saint Paul residents and post it on its Y2K Web site ([www.stpaul.gov/y2k](http://www.stpaul.gov/y2k)) this fall.

## Managing Change Seminar

A seminar focused on managing change will be held on Wednesday, September 15, from Noon to 1 p.m. in Room 42 City Hall. The seminar will address the effects of change on employees and examine strategies participants can use to deal with change. The seminar is free. No pre-registration is required.





## Explorer Post Seeks New Members

The Saint Paul Police Explorer Post #454 is looking for new members. The police explorer program is oriented toward young men and women between the ages of 15 and 21 who are interested in a career in law enforcement and who have a willingness to provide volunteer services to their community.

The police explorers are involved in assisting police department staff in events such as the Saint Paul Winter Carnival, the Minnesota State Fair, the Taste of Minnesota and Classic Cars Under the Stars. The explorers also receive training in scenarios representing real life police situations such as bomb threat response, white collar crime investigation, crime scene search, domestic crisis intervention, gang investigation, traffic stop protocol and street situation decision making.

The skills and experiences that are gained in this training are tested and evaluated at an annual regional conference held at Breezy Point Resort in April. In addition, a national competition is held every other year.

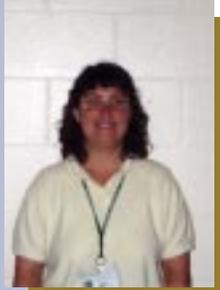
Qualifications for membership are evaluated via a written test, an oral interview and a background investigation. Membership dues are \$10 per year.

For additional information, interested participants can either attend an open house on Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 7 p.m. at Saint Paul Police Headquarters, 100 E. 11th Street, or call the Saint Paul Police Volunteer Services Unit at 651-292-3525.

## Employee Spotlight

### Cathy Courtney

When asked to sum up her duties as a Recreation Center Director, Cathy Courtney considers the question for a second and laughs. After a brief description of some of her responsibilities, it's easy to see why the job of Recreation Center Director is hard to define.



On any given day, Cathy, a 16-year employee with the City's Parks and Recreation Department, can be found doing one or more of the following at either the Hayden Heights and/or Frost Lake Community Recreation Centers:

- maintaining the facility
- coordinating activity programs
- supervising staff
- recruiting volunteers
- ordering/maintaining equipment
- outfitting youth with equipment
- handling complaints and questions
- planning, scheduling and more.

Cathy's responsibilities may be too long to list, but one of her priorities never changes -- providing activities for neighborhood children.

"The best part of my job is seeing young people grow through the program," said Cathy. "Years later, you see where someone might have taken the wrong turn but didn't because of the activities we provided. That's good to see."

Cathy said she also enjoys working with the many volunteers at the Communication Recreation Centers including Scott Renstrom, an aide to City Council President Dan Bostrom.

## On The Calendar

### T-Rex: Back To The Cretaceous

September 7-11, 14  
Imation IMAX Theatre  
Minnesota Zoo  
Tickets: \$4.50  
Call 612-431-4629



### Hockey Returns to Minnesota: The Minnesota Wild presents Phoenix Coyotes vs. New York Rangers

September 13 - 7 p.m.  
Target Center  
Tickets: \$15 - \$68  
Call 612-337-3865



**150 Trivia**

Each week a trivia question about the history of Saint Paul will appear in City Update with answers provided in the following issue.

**September 10 Trivia Question**

**Q: Match these former Minnesota Twins with their Saint Paul High School?**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Paul Molitor  | A. Highland Park |
| 2. Dave Winfield | B. Cretin        |
| 3. Jack Morris   | C. Central       |

**August 27 Trivia Question & Answer**

**Q: Who performed at the first concert at the old St. Paul Civic Center and when was it held?**  
**The J. Geils Band and Mason Proffit; 1973**

*City Update*

170 City Hall  
15 W. Kellogg Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
651-266-8528  
fax 651-266-8689  
e-mail:  
city.update@ci.stpaul.mn.us

*City Update* is a bi-weekly newsletter for City employees published by the Citizen Service Office of the City of Saint Paul. Submission deadline is noon on Tuesday, one week before payday. Call 266-8528 for information or for a calendar.

**City Update Wants To Know:**

- Are you working on a new project?*
- Do you need to promote an upcoming event?*
- Do you know an employee who deserves special recognition?*

**Please pass along story ideas, nominees for the employee spotlight or calendar items to Jodi Ellwood 266-8528 or [jodi.ellwood@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:jodi.ellwood@ci.stpaul.mn.us)**

**Don't forget to check out one of Saint Paul's 150 Pioneer Parties. Visit [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov) for more information.**

**Job Openings as of September 10, 1999**

<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Job Title</b>	<b>Bi-Weekly or Hourly Salary Rate</b>	<b>Exam Date</b>
Open	Clerk -Typist II	\$ 867.58	TBN
Open	Communications Technician	\$1359.09	Quals
Open	Communications Technician Trainee	\$1111.53	Quals
Open	Engineering Aide II	\$1057.74	TBN
Open	**Food Service Assistant ( <b>part-time</b> )	\$8.43 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	Food Service Helper ( <b>part-time</b> )	\$7.75 per hr	See Job Ann
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst I	\$1139.99	Quals
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst II	\$1326.60	Quals
Open	IS Information/Technical Analyst III	\$1470.98	Quals
Open	IS Systems Support Specialist II	\$1089.46	Quals
Open	IS Systems Support Specialist III	\$1326.60	Quals
Open	Library Associate ( <b>part-time</b> )	\$1086.23	Quals
Open	Library Clerk ( <b>part-time</b> )	\$9.23 per hr	Quals
09/13/99	Public Works Technician I	\$1168.80	09/23/99
Open	Telecommunicator	\$1242.48	Quals
Open	Ticket Sellers - River Centre ( <b>part-time</b> )	\$5.50 per hr (in training)	TBN

**\*\*This is a walk-in examination. Do not submit a job application before the test.**

Note: Call or visit the Office of Human Resources at 400 City Hall Annex to receive the official job announcement for these positions. Phone: (651) 266-6500 (TTY/TDD 651-266-6501). For jobs announced after September 2, please call the 24-hour job line, (651) 266-6502.